Vol. X. Numb. 64.

THE OBSERVATOR.

On Dyer *and* Abel's *contradicting one another about the Proceedings relating to the* Scots *Medal. A further Account of that Matter. The Faculty of Advocates acquitted, and the Faction condemn'd. Query, Whether there be any Relation betwixt the Medal, and the Hieroglyphick on a famous* Engliſh *Almanack.*

From Wedneſday, Auguſt 8. to Saturday, Auguſt 11. 1711.

Countrym. I Have News to tell you, Maſter; here's a War commenc'd betwixt *Cain* and *Abel.*

Obſ. What new Cant haſt got in thy Head, *Roger?* Prithee explain thy meaning; for tho this be an Age of Myſteries, I know little or nothing of them.

Countrym. That's becauſe you coop your ſelf up in your Cloſet, Maſter; but did you walk the Town as I do, you would know more. I don't mean old *Adam*'s two Sons, but *John Dyer* and *Abel Roper*, two of the Sons of *St. Germains*, who tho Brethren in Iniquity, have fallen together by the Ears, and *Abel* the Younger has riſen up againſt *Cain* the Elder.

Obſ. Why what's the matter, *Roger?*

Countrym. They have verify'd the Proverb, Maſter, that two of a Trade can never agree. You know that laſt day I brought you a Couple of *Dyer*'s Letters of the 26th and 28th of *July*, wherein he gave an Account from *Edinburgh*, with great Boaſts and Triumph, 'That the accepting 'of the Pretender's Medal was almoſt unanimouſ-'ly carry'd in the Faculty of Advocates againſt 'three Whig-Novices; that this Action was ſo 'much the more obſervable, becauſe it was done 'in the face of the World by the Oracles of our 'Nation, Men learned in the Law, that they 'ſeem'd mightily ſatisfy'd with the Preſent, and 'order'd a certain number of their Fraternity to 'return Thanks for it to the Dutcheſs of *Gordon*, 'after a long Debate: wherein he gives us the 'Names and Performances of the Combatants on 'both ſides, tho he conceals the treaſonable Spee-'ches ſaid to have been made by thoſe of his own 'ſide.'

Obſ. Well, and what of all this, *Roger?*

Countrym. Abel ſays *Cain*'s Intelligence is falſe, Maſter; that the whole Account is ſcandalous, was deſign'd to throw a Slander upon the Society of Advocates; and gives quite another Account of it, to vindicate the Faculty, as he pretends.

Obſ. Even let the two Jacobite Tools go to Loggerheads about it then, *Roger.* You know the old Proverb, *That when Thieves fall out, honeſt Men come by their own.* But before *Abel* had gone about to vindicate others, he ſhould have vindicated himſelf from his traitorous Inſinuation againſt making uſe of the Expedient of a *Come-over*, and have given us good proof that he did not mean *Han-over*, ſince by another of his Bog-Witticiſms he told us, that *Leſley* was one of the *Gone-overs* ſent to convert the Pretender to High-Church. However I don't ſee that the learned and honourable Faculty of Advocates ſtood in need of *Abel*'s Apology againſt any body elſe but his Brother *Dyer*, or *Cain* as you call him; for the firſt Accounts we had of that matter in Print, charg'd it only upon a Party, vindicated the Faculty, and inform'd us they had condemn'd what that Party had done: ſo that *Abel*'s Apology ſignifies nothing, unleſs he can prove againſt his Brother *Dyer*, that Mr. *Horn* and Mr. *Dundaſſe* did not ſpeak in defence of the Medal, as we have been told they did; that they were not boldly ſeconded by Sir *David Forbes*, and other eminent Lawyers; and that none of them return'd Thanks, in name of the reſt, to the Dutcheſs of *Gordon*, as *Dyer* informs us.

Countrym. It would make one laugh, Maſter, to hear how the Party is confounded by this claſhing of their two Champions. Did you but ſee how big *Dyer* looks, how he huffs and ſtruts, and rages that he ſhould be contradicted thus by ſuch a Whifler as *Abel*; and did you hear how the Party reſent the Diſhonour which *Abel* has done them by ſneaking, as they call it, I'm ſure 'twould ſpoil your Gravity. Curſe on his Fool's Pate, ſay they, what Buſineſs had he to contradict his elder Brother? How ſilly will our Friends in the Country look, when they find the glorious News which *Dyer* had tranſmitted to them under the Authority of a Parliamentary Frank, arraign'd in Print as a Lye by one of our own Fraternity? But we'll be even with the R——gue, we will ſpeak to his Nonjurant Father Confeſſors to excommunicate him *ipſo facto*, and to deny him Abſolution till he repent of thoſe his wicked Purpoſes. Is this a proper Fellow to drink a Bottle with *Sacheverel*, to be hug'd by the Nonjurant and Highflying Prieſts, to have Invectives againſt the Whigs Cut him almoſt every other night by Men of Characters and Stations, to appear in Print next day? We'll take care to ſpoil his Correſpondence, ſince he knows not how to make a better uſe of it. But pray, Maſter, what further Accounts have you of this matter, which the Politicians of the Party are at ſo much pains to ſtifle and palliate?

Obſ. All their Endeavours will never be able to waſh a Blackmoor white, *Roger:* You ſee that by *Abel*'s own account, 'the receiving of the 'Medal, and the Orders, as was reported, to 'give the Dutcheſs of *Gordon* Thanks for it, 'made ſo great a noiſe at *Edinburgh*, that the 'Queen's Advocate thought it his Duty to lay the 'Matter before a Secretary of State; that when 'twas laid before the Queen, another Secretary 'order'd the Advocate to make an Enquiry into 'it: That upon this Enquiry 'twas found true 'that ſuch a Medal had been preſented, but that 'twas never plac'd among the Medals of the 'Faculty, nor any thing recorded, or order'd 'to be recorded about it; and that there was but 'fourteen or ſixteen in Company when the Medal 'was preſented; and that 'twas ſpoke of as a 'Compliment from the Dutcheſs, without de-'ſcending into the Import thereof.'

Now, *Roger*, here's no Denial of the Debates that happen'd upon it, nor any Account what the

Number

Number was before the Debate ended, or how many were for it and how many againſt it: ſo that ſtill we are left in the dark. Nor is there any thing ſaid in oppoſition to the Truth of the Speeches mention'd in the Minutes, but only that nothing was recorded, or order'd to be ſo.

But here's a Letter from another Member of the Faculty, which gives us ſome further light into the matter. This Gentleman ſays, that the Dean of the Faculty did explain the Medal; which I think was deſcending into the Import of it, ſince he told 'em, 'That the Face was one 'that ſome People call'd King *James* VIII. and 'we the Pretender; the Reverſe was *Britain* and '*Ireland*; the Inſcription was our Saviour's An'ſwer to thoſe who ask'd Tribute, *Cujus eſt*, '*Reddite*, &c. When this Commentary was 'made, ſome of the Faculty exclaim'd againſt the 'Medal, and pleaded againſt receiving of it; 'others ſaid they were to regard no Commen'taries made upon Medals, but to accept of every 'thing of that kind that was offer'd them. The 'Debate was going on, and a Vote propos'd, 'Receive or not receive, when *by Miſtake* the 'young Advocate that was to be examin'd was 'allow'd to come in; which put an end to the 'Queſtion: ſo that nothing was mark'd in the 'Books of the Faculty.'

This is a very natural Account of the Affair, *Roger*, and how the further Proceedings came to be then ſtop'd; it ſeems *'twas by Miſtake*. Now as Miſtakes in Accounts are always to be allow'd for, the queſtion is, whether the Party had not the Majority at propoſing the Queſtion, and what that Majority was; and whether, ſince they were ſo inſolent as to propoſe ſuch a Queſtion, which ought to have been put no where, ſince the Medal imported the Claim of a Traitor to her Majeſty's Crown, the Faction might not have Inſolence enough to return Thanks in their own name and that of the Faculty to the Dutcheſs, tho no ſuch thing was order'd. For we have no reaſon to think that they who fly in the face of the Law, would have much regard to the Orders of the Faculty. So much for the Meeting of the firſt Day.

Then as to the Meeting of the ſecond, we are told, 'it was call'd after they knew her Majeſty 'had taken the thing amiſs; that this was a very 'throng Meeting, when they unanimouſly agreed, 'not to receive the Medal; and none franker in 'this laſt Reſolve, than ſome of thoſe who at the 'firſt Meeting expreſs'd moſt Zeal to receive the 'Medal. Then a Committee was appointed to 'prepare an Act accordingly, and to aſcertain 'the Duty and Loyalty of the Faculty to her 'Majeſty and the Proteſtant Succeſſion as by Law 'eſtabliſh'd, and likewiſe to declare their utter 'Abhorrence of all Principles and Practices de'rogatory to her Majeſty's Title or Poſſeſſion, '&c. and particularly in relation to the Preten'der, and his Aſſiſtants or Abettors.'

Now, *Roger*, as this is a compleat Vindication of the Faculty, whom we acquitted of the Charge at firſt, 'tis as full a Condemnation of the Faction; ſo that they have made a fine ſpot of work on't, to get their Pretender's Title and Medal rejected, inſtead of being approv'd by that Learned and Honourable Society. This is ſo much the more ſeaſonable, becauſe there are Letters from good hands, which ſay, that had not the Party met with this Repulſe, they deſign'd to have preſented Medals of the ſame ſort to every Corporation in *Scotland*. May all ſuch Jacobite Endeavours meet with the like Diſappointments!

In the mean time, this ſhews their Inſolence, that they durſt propoſe a thing ſo manifeſtly againſt Law, to a Body of Men, who are oblig'd by their Office to maintain the Law: It ſhews the Neceſſity of obſerving the Faction, and of enquiring into the Grounds of their Hopes; and perhaps it might be no improper Query, to ask whether there be any relation betwixt the Fleet on this *Scotch* Medal and the Hieroglyphick on a certain famous Almanack in *England*, which repreſents a young Spark landing, with a Fleet attacking a Town, and ſetting it on fire? But enough of thoſe things at preſent, *Roger*.

N. B. *In our laſt*, Col. 4. lin. 2. for *him* read *them*.

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